

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Below is the entire set of pending claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(3)(i), with any mark-ups showing the changes made by the present Amendment.

1. (Presently amended) A fiber material, comprising:

a first layer of substantially unbound nonwoven fibers directionally aligned in a plurality of crossing linear formations, ~~the first layer having an overall thickness substantially equal to a thickness of one of the linear formations;~~ and

a second layer of randomly dispersed nonwoven fibers dispersed in physical contact with the first layer.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Original) A fiber material according to claim 1, wherein the fibers are selected from the group consisting of: glass fibers, synthetic polymer fibers, ceramic and inorganic fibers, natural fibers, cellulosic fibers, and mixtures of any or all thereof.
5. (Original) A fiber material according to claim 1, wherein each of the fibers comprises a diameter ranging from about 0.00001 inches to about 0.0300 inches.

6. (Original) A fiber material according to claim 1, wherein each of the fibers comprises a length ranging from about 0.10 inches to about 1.5 inches.
7. (Original) A fiber material according to claim 1, further comprising a binder material distributed among the fibers within the first and second layers.
8. (Original) A fiber material according to claim 7, wherein the fiber material comprises about 5-30% binder material by weight.
9. (Original) A fiber material according to claim 7, wherein the binder material comprises an organic compound.
10. (Original) A fiber material according to claim 9, wherein the organic compound is selected from the group consisting of acrylic latex, urea-formaldehyde, SBR latex, acrylic emulsions, and mixtures thereof.
11. (Original) A fiber material according to claim 1, wherein the first layer comprises a thickness of about 50% of the total thickness of the fiber material.
12. (Previously presented) A fiber material according to claim 1, wherein the fiber material has a tear-strength under the Elmendorf Tear Test of about 393g mean tears when the fiber material has a weight of 1.6 lb/sq. and when 15% of the weight of the fiber material is binder material.

13. (Previously presented) A fiber material according to claim 12, wherein an overall thickness of fiber material is about 0.035 inches, and the thickness of the first nonwoven layer is about 0.002 to 0.010 inches.

14. (Presently amended) A fiber material, comprising:

a first plurality of substantially unbound nonwoven fibers horizontally dispersed in two or more predetermined directions;

a second plurality of nonwoven fibers horizontally dispersed in random directions and directly in physical contact with fibers of the first plurality of fibers ~~in random directions~~; and

binding material binding the first and second pluralities of nonwoven fibers in their respective directions.

15. (Original) A fiber material according to claim 14, wherein the fibers are selected from the group consisting of: glass fibers, synthetic polymer fibers, ceramic and inorganic fibers, natural fibers, cellulosic fibers, and mixtures of any or all thereof.

16. (Original) A fiber material according to claim 14, wherein each of the fibers comprises a diameter ranging from about 0.00001 inches to about 0.0300 inches.

17. (Original) A fiber material according to claim 14, wherein each of the fibers comprises a length ranging from about 0.10 inches to about 1.5 inches.

18. (Original) A fiber material according to claim 14, wherein the binding material comprises an organic compound.
19. (Previously presented) A fiber material according to claim 18, wherein the organic compound is selected from the group consisting of acrylic latex, urea-formaldehyde, SBR latex, acrylic emulsions, and mixtures thereof.
20. (Previously presented) A fiber material according to claim 14, wherein the fibers in the first plurality of fibers are horizontally dispersed in linear formations extending in the two or more predetermined directions.
21. (Original) A fiber material according to claim 1, wherein the first plurality of fibers comprises a thickness of about 50% of the total thickness of the fiber material.
22. (Previously presented) A fiber material according to claim 14, wherein the fiber material has a tear-strength under the Elmendorf Tear Test of about 393g mean tears when the fiber material has a weight of 1.6 lb/sq. and when 15% of the weight of the fiber material is binder material.
23. (Previously presented) A fiber material according to claim 22, wherein an overall thickness of fiber material is about 0.035 inches, and the thickness of the first nonwoven layer is about 0.002 to 0.010 inches.

24. (Original) A fiber material according to claim 14, wherein the first and second pluralities of fibers are both horizontally dispersed to a substantially uniform thickness.

25. (Original) A fiber material according to claim 14, wherein the binding material comprises about 5% to 30% of a total weight of the fiber material.

26 - 50. (Canceled)

51. (New) A fiber material according to claim 1, wherein the first layer has an overall thickness substantially equal to a thickness of one of the linear formations.

52. (New) A fiber material according to claim 20, wherein the first plurality of fibers has a substantially uniform overall thickness when dispersed in the two or more predetermined directions.